

## FILM ESTIMATES

Recognizing that one man's meat may be another's poison, the National Committee on Current Theatrical Films gives three ratings: A, for discriminating adults; Y, for youth; and C, for children. These estimates are printed by special arrangement with *The Educational Screen*, Chicago.

ARTISTS AND MODELS (Jack Benny, Ida Lupino, G. Patrick) (Para.) Complex musical review, with lavish settings for assorted "acts"—song and dance spectacles, comedy teams, "hot rhythm" bands, Martha Raye. Brief plot provides "romance" and generally gay, inoffensive sophistication on elaborate scale.

(A)-(Y) Very good of kind (C) Doubtful value

BROADWAY MELODY OF 1938 (Eleanor Powell, Robt. Taylor) (MGM) Elaborate musical, with dancing, singing and comedy acts worked into elementary, agreeable little story. Opulent stage extravaganza as climax. Eleanor appealing. A nauseating sequence with Judy Garland singing maudlin song to Gable's picture.

(A) Fair of kind (Y) Mostly good (C) Doubtful

DEAD END (J. McCrae, H. Bogart, S. Sidney) (U. A.) Realistic, vivid drama portraying New York riverfront slum life and criminal characters it breeds. Notably acted, especially by gang of young hoodlums dominating action. Thoughtful, unpleasant stuff, excellently done, with striking settings and photography.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) Strong, mature (C) No

KNIGHT WITHOUT ARMOUR (Dietrich, Donat) (U. A.) Strong romantic melodrama with Russian Revolution as background. Grim death and destruction throughout. Intimate romantic episodes inoffensively handled; famed bathtub scene merely silly. Donat effective. Langorous acting; fixed stares by Dietrich.

(A) Good of kind (Y) Strong, mature (C) No

LIFE OF EMILE ZOLA, THE (Muni, Schildkraut, and fine cast) (Col.) Stirring biographical film, authentically mounted, true in essentials, fictionalized as to detail. Muni superb in title role. Schildkraut's Dreyfuss impressive. Some minor flaws in make-up that hardly detract from moving, human, dramatic values.

(A) and (Y) Excellent (C) Mature

MAKE A WISH (Bobby Breen, B. Rathbone, Marian Claire) (RKO) Entertaining and pleasant musical picture with tunes part of plot. Natural role for Bobby, and Rathbone engaging as composer in love with singer-heroine, mother of his little pal. Wholesome scenes of boys' camp life add much.

(A) Enjoyable (Y) Good (C) Very good

MAN WHO CRIED WOLF, THE (Lewis Stone, Tom Brown) (Univ.) Original, fairly interesting tale, but with sympathy wholly for murderer-hero, whose uniquely planned killing of blackguard proves boomerang, when own son is accused of crime. Melodramatic, suspenseful, fairly convincing, finely acted by Stone.

(A) Good of kind (Y) Doubtful (C) No

100 MEN AND A GIRL, (Deanna Durbin, A. Menjou) (Univ.) Splendidly produced film distinguished by glorious music and Deanna's singing. Simple, but stirring story of jobless musicians

and charming heroine by whose efforts they are organized into symphony orchestra, and get Stokowski to conduct.

(A) and (Y) Very good (C) Yes, if it interests

ONE MILE FROM HEAVEN (Claire Trevor, Sally Blaine) (Fox) Highly incredible farce-melodrama mixture, with super-clever reporter heroine solving puzzling claim of mulatto girl to white child. Some appealing action and comedy, Fredi Washington's fine acting, and Bill Robinson compensating factors.

(A) Perhaps (Y) Perhaps (C) No

RIDING ON AIR (Joe E. Brown, Guy Kibbe) (RKO) Hilarious, clean comedy with usual funny Brown antics. He wins radio contest, gets into trouble with his girl and community through slick stock promoter, but becomes hero when he captures smugglers and proves worth of airplane invention. Thrilling flying.

(A) and (Y) Amusing (C) Good

SOULS AT SEA (Gary Cooper, Geo. Raft, Frances Dee) (Para.) Strong, colorful, absorbing melodrama inspired by century-old sea disaster in days of slave trade. Impressively set, costumed, directed, acted, beautifully photographed. Essentially tragic situation, but not prolonged or overdone.

(A) Fine of kind (Y) Too strong (C) No

STELLA DALLAS (Stanwyck, Ann Shirley, J. Bole) (MGM) Excellent sound version of famous sentimental silent of years ago. Shirley notable as daughter; Stanwyck highly effective as crude, blatant mother who does courageous sacrifice for child. Some unnecessary exaggerations, but whole notable.

(A) Very fine of kind (Y)-(C) Good but sad

THIN ICE (Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power) (Fox) Elementary little plot about romance of incognito prince and little skating instructress, but decidedly worth while for Sonja's charm and incomparable skating, delightful ice ballets, Alpine scenery. Joan Davis' antics serve merely as undesirable interruptions.

(A) Good (Y) Very good (C) Good

THIRTEEN, THE (Russian cast, English titles) Stirring, absorbing drama of heroism based on actual incident. Group of demobilized Soviet soldiers, commander and wife, attacked at oasis by bandits, hold them off until troops come to rescue lone survivor. Superb desert photography, fine acting.

(A) Impressive (Y) Good (C) Too exciting

VARSITY SHOW (Dick Powell, Fred Waring) (War.) Above average college musical, peppy, amusing smoothly done. Substantial little story concerns students' difficulties in putting on show due to faculty interference, so transfer it to New York to help hero-producer. Effective spectacles, pleasing cast.

(A) Good (Y) Entertaining (C) If it interests